

XXXV.—A CURE FOR TAPEWORM.

In July 1930 I was admitted into hospital with severe abdominal pains, particularly on the right side from just below the ribs to almost the groin. My condition was at that time attributed to the after-effects of dysentery, combined with malaria and ænemia. I was treated accordingly. No one suspected the presence of tapeworm. With the first intravenous injection of quinine I passed about three yards of tapeworm. No sooner was this discovered I was treated with Male Fern (*Filix-mas*) with a negative result. This failing another preparation (of which I do not remember the name) was administered. This likewise had no effect and no further appearance of the worm was noticed.

My condition remained much the same. I complained of a distinct lump just below the ribs on the right side which moved about and in moving caused me considerable pain. Eventually I was X-rayed but the radiograph showed nothing. Seeing there was nothing to be done and that I was weakening daily, I requested the Medical Officer to permit me to leave the hospital, which he agreed to on condition that I went to the hills, for at least two months. My weight at the time of leaving hospital was 8st. (normal about 10st. 4 lbs.). In the first eighteen days up in the hills my weight increased rapidly with just ordinary food supplemented with Ostomalt. After this stage progress was gradual till I reached almost normal weight. During this time my stomach was very uncomfortable particularly after meals and I was advised to take Milk of Magnesia. This gave me temporary relief. Towards the end of the two months my weight began to drop once more.

In the meantime I received a letter from a friend of mine advising me to take a decoction from the roots of the Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*, L.) after fasting for three days. But, as I was not troubled much at the moment I did not attempt it. About three days before I was due back at work I discovered segments in the stools, so I determined to try the effectiveness of the Pomegranate root and on my return to town took the matter in hand. For the purpose I obtained about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of fresh root and boiled it as directed in Dymock's *Pharmacographia Indica*, vol. ii, p. 45, but I did not follow the instructions to the letter. The roots, that I had secured, I boiled in about 4 pints of water till they were almost reduced to half the quantity and appeared like strong tea. This I drew off and allowed to cool. The roots were then crushed and reboiled in a like quantity of water and after the water had again boiled down to about half it was added to the first lot, thereby giving me about 4 pints.

Before commencing the treatment, I took 1 ounce of Magnesium Sulphate in the morning followed by a hot cup of tea after which I kept a rigid fast for three days. On the third day I commenced with the decoction early in the morning and by noon had taken $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints followed by another dose of Magnesium Sulphate. About 1 p.m. the worm was ejected in a large tangled mass. Relief was almost immediate—the lump from under my ribs dis-

appeared. On examination it turned out that the head remained inside. There was nothing to be done for the moment as I was not anxious to repeat the fast. My condition improved considerably and I felt a new man. Two months later to the day I was worried once more by my guest. I repeated the experiment adding this time 45 drops of Carbon Tetrachloride after taking the last dose of Pomegranate decoction. The result was a negative one. As I did not succeed this time, and no further segments appeared, I let the matter lie till the worm showed itself again.

Again two months to the date, the worm made its appearance. In sheer desperation to get rid of the beast I altered the treatment slightly. A friend of mine suggested that I should try chloroform this time, added to the Pomegranate treatment. In order to make sure of a thoroughly empty stomach I commenced by the administration of a strong soap and water enema in the evening before retiring, followed up next morning by one ounce of Magnesium Sulphate. On the top of this I commenced the Pomegranate decoction and continued it throughout the day till I had consumed $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints. The same evening at seven o'clock I took 15 drops of pure chloroform in half a wine glass of water. By 8-30 p.m. the complete worm was expelled.

The Pomegranate decoction gives one a slightly sickly feeling, but it is not unbearable, while the chloroform just made me a little unsteady. By the next morning all the effects had worn off.

As the last mentioned treatment was so effective I recommended it to a friend of mine whom I knew had been suffering from the same complaint for over 16 years. He had tried every possible thing and had failed every time. However, eventually he followed my advice, but being a bigger man than myself, he increased the doses in each case. He took 3 pints of the decoction and 25 drops of chloroform and eventually two ounces of Magnesium Sulphate. The result was good. He passed 50 ounces of tapeworm. On examination of the mass it was found that there were 38 heads! In both the cases the tapeworms concerned were the Beef-Tapeworm (*Tænia saginata* Goeze).

It may be mentioned here that during the treatment tea alone was taken at intervals throughout the day, a full meal after the expulsion of the worm.

Before I end this note I give below the precise method of the treatment:—

- (1) At night a strong enema before retiring.
- (2) Early next morning 1 oz. Magnesium Sulphate.
- (3) $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints of Pomegranate decoction from *fresh* roots, taken at intervals during the day.
- (4) 15 drops of pure Chloroform at seven in the evening (or quantity prescribed by the doctor according to the constitution of the patient).
- (5) Half an hour after the chloroform repeat dose of Mag. Sulph. to clear bowels of decoction.

Now a word with regard to the effect of *Filix-mas*. I am given to understand that this drug is very efficacious in Europe in cases of tapeworm. If this be the case the only reason for its failure

in India is possibly due to the fact that the drug when used, is old, and in consequence has lost its potency. As it is stocked by chemists over long periods it in all probability degenerates.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
BOMBAY.

C. McCANN, F.L.S.,
Assistant Curator.

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XXXVI.—SOME SEAGRASSES FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY.

While collecting seaweeds at several places the writer has collected a few flowering plants often associated with certain algae. In view of the following remarks by Dr. F. Borgesen some information about seagrasses will be of some interest. He writes: 'At Bombay I had expected to find a rich vegetation of seagrasses at the shores, but in this respect I was disappointed as I have not found any.' So writes Dr. Borgesen in one of his papers. This fact is to some extent corroborated by Cooke in his flora.

Notwithstanding the writer has succeeded in collecting the following plants:—

1. *Halophila ovalis* Hook. (*Hydrocharitaceae*.)

2. *Halophila decipiens* Ostf. (*Hydrocharitaceae*.)

The first species which was collected at Malvan and Port Okha in the month of March, 1929, was identified at Kew through Rev. Fr. E. Blatter. The second species was identified by Prof. Ostenfield at Copenhagen according to Dr. Borgesen. Both the species were abundant and grew mixed up with the species of *Caulerpa*. It was collected at Bombay in the month of January 1926.

3. *Cymodoceae* sp. probably *isoëtifolia* Asch. (*Potamogetonaceae*.)

This plant covered a fairly large area of hard calcareous soil at Port Okha in March; the same place was formerly covered by *Codium elongatum* Ag. in January 1929.

4. *Ruppia rostellata* Koch. (*Naiadaceae*.)

This plant formed the main part of vegetation (in March 1927 and 1928) of a mudflat near Santa Cruz which was flooded by seawater at high tide. It was mixed up with *Chara succincta*.

Rev. Fr. E. Blatter has kindly identified these plants.

LITERATURE CITED:

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2. T. Cooke:—The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay, vol. ii, p. 839.
3. A. Arber:—Water Plants. Cambridge. 1920. p. 123.

WILSON COLLEGE,
BOMBAY, 7.

S. C. DIXIT,
M.Sc., M.A.